

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 SAM-01 SCA-01

/049 W

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R 052005Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7048

INFO USIA WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: BARRING OF TIME CORRESPONDENT RUDY RAUCH

1. SUMMARY. GOC TOLD USIS FEB 4 THAT TIME CORRESPONDENT RUDY RAUCH, RESIDENT IN BUENOS AIRES, COULD NOT ENTER CHILE. RAUCH ORIGINALLY INTENDED ARRIVE SANTIAGO JAN 27, BUT WAITED BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY OF STATUS. NO SPECIFIC REASON GIVEN FOR BARRING, WHICH APPEARS TO BE DIRECTIVE FROM TOP LEVELS OF INTERIOR MINISTRY. EMBASSY CONTINUING THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTACTS IN ATTEMPT TO HAVE RAUCH ADMITTED. END SUMMARY.

2. ARTURO LANE, HEAD OF GOC FOREIGN PRESS OFFICE, TOLD ACTING IO FEB 4 THAT TIME CORRESPONDENT RUDY RAUCH WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER CHILE BY ORDER OF "INTERIOR MINISTER HIMSELF." RAUCH HAS BEEN WAITING IN BUENOS AIRES SINCE JAN 27, WHEN HE ORIGINALLY INTENDED FLY TO SANTIAGO. AIO HAD BEEN ASSURED BY LANE AFTERNOON OF JAN 26 THAT RAUCH COULD ENTER FREELY. HOWEVER, RAUCH, WHO HAD CABLED INTERIOR MINISTRY REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ENTER, RECEIVED ANSWER JAN 26 FROM OFFICE OF INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARY SAYING HE WAS BARRED.

3. DURING VISIT OF ANDREW HEISKELL, TIME, INC. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, AND EDITOR IN CHIEF HEDLEY DONOVAN, TO SANTIAGO IN OCTOBER,
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RAUCH, AND TIME EXECUTIVES, IN PRESENCE OF PAO AT DINNER AT

AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, RECEIVED PERSONAL ASSURANCES FROM JUNTA PRESS CHIEF FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY THAT RAUCH WOULD BE ABLE TO ENTER COUNTRY FREELY ON LATER OCCASIONS, DESPITE A 1974 ORDER BARRING HIM FROM CHILE. RAUCH HAS ENTERED CHILE SINCE 1974 ORDER ISSUED, BUT HAD DIFFICULTIES WHEN ATTEMPTED TO ENTER IN OCTOBER. IO WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE AIRPORT OFFICIALS TO LET HIM THROUGH.

4. WILLOUGHBY LEFT OFFICE JAN 29 AND IT APPEARS INTERIOR MINISTRY WISHES UPHOLD 1974 BAN. AIO SPOKE TO WILLOUGHBY AND LANE FREQUENTLY DURING WEEK ON MATTER. BOTH INDICATED RAUCH WOULD BE PERMITTED ENTER CHILE. RAUCH WAS KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

5. AFTERNOON OF JAN 29 LANE SAID SOLUTION OF PROBLEM WOULD COME FEB 2, AND THAT FOR AIO'S INFORMATION ONLY, SOLUTION WOULD BE "FAVORABLE". LANE SAID RAUCH, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT PLAN TO COME O CHILE BEFORE FEB 5. RAUCH WAS SO INFORMED BY PAO.

6. "EL MERCURIO" OF JAN 30 CARRIED FOUR-LINE ITEM DATED LINE MIAMI ON INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (IAPA) PROTEST OF "BARRING OF RUDY RAUCH FROM CHILE." NO OTHER COMMENT NOTED.

7. WHEN AIO ATTEMPTED REACH LANE FEB 2, HE WAS "UNAVAILABLE", AND CONTINUED TO BE SO UNTIL AFTERNOON OF FEB 5. LANE CALLED LATE AFTERNOON FEB 4 TO SAY RAUCH BARRED. USED EXCUSE OF IAPA PROTEST, WHICH HE TERMED "ACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILE." CALLED PROTEST "UNWARRANTED, WHEN WE WERE NEGOTIATING IN GOOD FATH." USIS NOTIFIED RAUCH OF BAN, AND HE CANCELED PLANS.

8. PAO CALLED HORACIO WOOD, NEW HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION, THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS RAUCH MATTER. HE WAS TOLD WOOD WOULD NOT BE IN OFFICE TODAY AND WAS REFERRED TO HIS DEPUTY ALFREDO LABBE. PAO GAVE FACTS TO LABBE AND SAID, WHILE RECOGNIZING RIGHT OF COUNTRY TO ADMIT OR NOT ADMIT ANYONE, USG ALWAYS REGRETTED ACTION WHICH PROHIBITED U.S. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT FROM ENTERING COUNTRY FOR REPORTING PURPOSES. PAO INFORMALLY POINTED OUT UNFAVORABLE WORLDWIDE PUBLICITY WHICH COUD RESULT FOR CHILE AT THIS TIME IF RAUCH NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER COUNTRY. LABBE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY AND CALL PAO BACK.

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9. DCM WILL DISCUSS RAUCH CASE IN MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTRY FEB 7 WITH PABLO VALDES, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

10. COMMENT: RAUCH BELIEVES THAT IAPA PROTEST SIMPLY PROVIDED EXCUSE FOR INTERIOR MINISTRY TO BAR RAUCH. ON OTHER HAND, PREMATURE IAPA ACTION CERTAINLY DID NOT HELP MATTERS. LANE ORIGINALLY IN FAVOR OF RAUCH'S ENTRY AND APPARENTLY OVER-

RULLED BY TOP-LEVEL INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS. RAUCH, WHO STATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY EFFORTS IN HIS BEHALF, BELIEVES TIME, INC. WILL LODGE STRONG PROTEST WITH DEPARTMENT BECAUSE OF HIS BARRING.

11. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TAKE RAUCH MATTER UP WITH CHILEAN EMBASSY, WHICH MAY BE ABLE EXERT INFLUENCE ON GOC FROM THAT END. IF HEISKELL OR OTHER TIME, INC. OFFICIALS CALL DEPARTMENT, ALSO MAY WISH TO SUGGEST THEY CALL CHILEAN EMBASSY.

12. IRONICALLY, APPOINTMENTS BEING LINED UP BY TIME STRINGER AT RAUCH REQUEST PROBABLY WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN STORY SAYING CLIMATE IMPROVING IN CHILE AND CITING AS EVIDENCE PUBLICATION FREI ARTICLE, NEW DETAINEE REGULATIONS AND COURT RULING PERMITTING RADIO BALMACEDA RESUME BROADCASTING.

13. THIS YET ANOTHER CASE WHERE GOC OFFICIALS OWN WORST ENEMIES IN PUBLIC RELATIONS FIELD. DECLASS. 2/5/77.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA00981
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-0547
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760279/aaaacqzb.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BARRING OF TIME CORRESPONDENT RUDY RAUCH
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CI, US, (RAUCH, RUDY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006